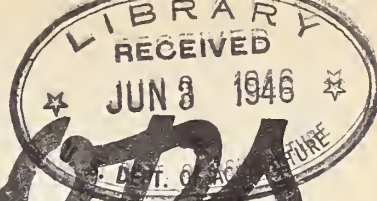


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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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CANADA HARVESTS LARGE WHEAT CROP

The 1944 wheat crop in Canada is placed at 447.7 million bushels, according to the first official estimate. At that figure, the production would be above average and would exceed considerably the small harvest in 1943, though it is still much smaller than the large crops of 1940 and 1942. The large outturn in Canada confirms expectations of a record production in North America, with present prospects indicating a total of around 1,575 million bushels.

The good crop in Canada is due to the increased acreage and above-average yields. The acreage, which was the largest sown to wheat since 1940, shows a gain of about 6.4 million acres, compared with the small 1943 seedings. The increase was the result of acreage shifts - principally from feed grains, flaxseed, and summer-fallow - reversing the Government's former policy of diversion of acreage from wheat.

Comparatively high wheat prices, the sharp reduction in farm stocks, and exceptionally favorable seeding weather favored the wheat expansion, as did the removal of acreage payments for shifts to other crops. No marketing quota has been set for the 1944-45 season, and present plans are for unrestricted marketings.

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CUBAN RICE CONSUMPTION MAINTAINED

Despite reduced rice imports and diminished stocks in August-July 1942-43, Cuban rice consumption was maintained at a normal level during the 1943-44 marketing year, because of larger imports and increased domestic production. Cuban rice stocks on July 31 this year were somewhat larger than a year earlier. The shortage during the first part of the 1943-44 marketing year created an urgent demand for rice, the principal food in the Cuban diet, and necessitated the heavy importation of less-preferred short-grain types and also of higher-grade rice than is normally consumed in that country.

Rice consumption during 1943-44 totaled about 460 million pounds, ranging from 35 to 40 million pounds a month, or about the same as in previous years. Based on the latest population census of 1943, the per capita consumption amounted to about 95 pounds, a utilization somewhat lower than that calculated from previous population figures. The decreased rice supplies at the beginning of the marketing year presented problems in maintaining rice consumption at an average rate, while the consumption of practically all other foodstuffs, including wheat flour, rose sharply.

Arrivals in Cuba during the marketing year, as indicated by ships' manifests, were 422 million pounds, an increase of approximately 25 percent over the unusually low imports of the preceding year, and the largest importation since the war began. Of that total, the United States supplied 73 percent, Ecuador 20 percent, and Chile 7 percent. According to Cuban ships' manifests, which are unofficial data and do not include arrivals in small Cuban ports, takings from the United States were the second largest on record, the peak having been 345 million pounds in 1940-41.

The heavy Cuban demand for rice was responsible for a change in the usual procedure in purchasing rice from United States exporters. Until 1943, rice was bought on contract. It was offered by sellers and accepted by importers with variety, quality, and price definitely specified. In the summer of 1943, Cuban buyers began to send purchase orders to United States millers, authorizing them to ship rice of any quality or variety, at ceiling prices, plus costs.

One result of this policy was a shift to rice types which formerly were not imported in large quantities. The preferred long-grain Rexora and Nira varieties customarily imported from the southern United

States were available only in small lots. Cuban importers, therefore, turned to the short-grain California rice, the American Pearl. In addition, a larger percentage of high-grade rice was imported. Whereas, before the 1943-44 marketing year, short-grain rice of 50-percent broken and long-grain of 30-percent broken were commonly imported, the largest part of that year's imports consisted of 20-percent broken, or less. A third result was that the importation of higher-quality rice raised prices for Cuban importers and consumers.

The United States has been the principal source for Cuban rice only since 1940. In 1937, imports from the United States increased substantially as a result of promotional activities and the reduction in the Cuban import duty on American rice from \$1.68 to 84 cents per 100 pounds provided for in the trade agreement in September 1934. Total costs, customs, and other landing charges for rice imports from the United States amount to about \$1.40 per 100 pounds compared with \$3.30 for rice from other countries.

CUBA: Rice arrivals, August-July 1943-44, with comparisons

COUNTRY OR AREA	AVERAGE			
	1932-1936	1937-1941	1942-43	1943-44
	: 1936 :	: 1941 :		
	: Million pounds :	: Million pounds :	: Million pounds :	: Million pounds :
Orient	333	201	0	0
United States	19	232	247	307
Ecuador	0	1	35	86
Chile	0	0	18	28
Others	27	1	9	1
Total	379	435	309	422

Figures for 1932-1941 are official for calendar years, while for 1942-43 and 1943-44 they are from ships' manifests for the marketing year August-July. The latter are considered incomplete.

The Far East provided the largest share of Cuba's rice requirements before the war. In the early 1930's, British India, including Burma, supplied from one-half to two-thirds of the total, while less rice came from the United States than from the United Kingdom. From 1935 until the war, Siam was by far the principal supplier, and imports from French Indochina rose gradually to a peak of 80 million pounds in 1939. In that year, about half of the Cuban rice requirements came from the Orient and half from the United States.

Production in Cuba for 1943 was placed unofficially at 2,222,000 bushels of rough rice, the equivalent of 65 million pounds milled. Mills hulled around 55 million pounds, and farms retained about 20 million pounds to be milled by hand for home use, or for seed. The 1944 crop is estimated to be about the same as that of last year. Acreage was reduced because of the severe drought in the spring, but prospects are now favorable for a larger yield than last year.

Since 1941, when available world rice supplies diminished, Cubans have become interested in increasing their home production of this crop. In the 3 years that followed, efforts have been made to increase the acreage, but weather conditions have been unfavorable for rice cultivation. The

general conclusion appears to be that while the factors of uneven rainfall distribution, limited irrigation, and soils that are not well adapted to rice growing will tend to check any rapid expansion in acreage in the future, cultivation may continue at a higher level than in former years.

The August 1 stock position this year was somewhat better than a year earlier. On August 1, 1943, stocks were at a low point of 93 million pounds, but on August 1, 1944, they amounted to 115 million pounds. In pre-war years, Cuba carried rice stocks averaging 150-200 million pounds, while the current stock level is 100-120 million.

Prices paid by Cuban rice importers this past season averaged higher than usual on account of the shortage of United States export grades containing high percentages of broken grains. Cuban importers during the year paid United States ceiling prices plus the export premium, and many buyers paid an additional charge for the services of a purchasing agent in the United States.

In June 1942, the Cuban retail ceiling prices were established at 10 cents per Spanish pound for short-grain rice and 13.5 cents for long-grain, but because of the high cost, it has been difficult for retailers to sell under these prices.

L. Thelma Willahan

LARGER WORLD WHEAT CROP EXPECTED IN 1944

Present prospects for the 1944 world wheat production are for the largest crop since 1940; when the outturn was estimated at 5,000 million bushels. The improved outlook is due principally to the record harvest in prospect for North America, which is expected to reach nearly 1,500 million bushels, an increase of around 450 million over last year. This increase seems likely to more than offset the recorded declines in India and North Africa, and the prospective smaller outturns in the Southern Hemisphere. It is still too early, however, to make any definite appraisal of the Southern Hemisphere crops.

World production in 1943 was estimated at around 5,700 million bushels, which was about the same as for the 2 preceding years, but considerably less than during the pre-war and early war years. Wide variations in outturns occurred in important producing countries during 1941-1943, but changes in the different areas were compensating, leaving the estimated total unchanged. Some gain in the Northern Hemisphere, compared with the preceding year, was balanced by a like reduction in the Southern Hemisphere.

The North American production in 1943 was the smallest since 1937, both the United States and Canada having had greatly reduced crops compared with recent years. Reduced acreage accounted for the decrease in production in both countries, as yields per acre were above average, though considerably smaller than in 1942. The largest increases were reported for Europe and Asia, with the outturn in Europe estimated to be the largest since 1939, as the result of favorable weather and increased seedings.

WHEAT: Acreage in specified countries, year of harvest,
averages 1930-1939, annual 1940-1943 a/

CONTINENT AND COUNTRY	AVERAGE		1940	1941	1942	1943 <u>b/</u>
	1930-1934:	1935-1939:				
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
North America:						
United States	54,193	57,293	52,988	55,542	49,200	50,554
Canada	25,682	25,595	28,726	21,882	21,586	17,488
Mexico	1,237	1,244	1,484	1,440	1,483	1,500
Total, 3 countries	81,112	84,132	83,198	78,964	72,269	69,542
Europe, estimated total	76,035	78,350	73,000	74,200	70,400	74,000
Soviet Union	85,798	98,754	-	-	-	-
Africa:						
Algeria	3,893	4,184	4,097	4,185	4,071	3,849
French Morocco	2,887	3,254	3,950	3,715	3,465	3,607
Egypt	1,560	1,464	1,563	1,560	1,536	1,990
Tunisia	1,995	1,901	1,662	2,026	2,209	1,557
Union of South Africa <u>c/</u>	1,516	1,926	2,313	2,362	2,669	2,702
Total, 5 countries	11,851	12,729	13,585	13,848	14,050	13,705
Asia						
China <u>d/</u> 49,106 : <u>d/</u> 48,120			-	-	-	-
Manchuria	3,301	2,903	2,518	-	-	-
Japan	1,356	1,738	2,024	1,982	-	-
Chosen	809	832	859	773	-	-
India	33,340	34,492	34,009	34,849	34,039	34,014
Palestine <u>d/</u> 475		533	544	550	399	405
Syria and Lebanon ..	1,245	1,363	-	1,600	1,603	1,606
Turkey	7,023	8,973	10,826	10,892	10,870	-
Total, 8 countries <u>e/</u>	96,655	98,954	95,280	96,745	-	-
South America:						
Argentina	17,709	15,834	16,500	14,660	12,047	14,536
Chile	1,763	1,953	1,930	1,804	1,857	1,953
Uruguay	1,055	1,210	926	1,123	987	734
Brazil	391	443	559	-	-	-
Peru	298	285	334	296	289	292
Total, 5 countries <u>e/</u>	21,216	19,735	20,349	19,100	16,300	19,000
Oceania:						
Australia	15,223	13,128	12,645	12,003	9,280	8,300
New Zealand	266	221	243	258	287	246
Total, 2 countries	15,489	13,349	12,888	12,261	9,567	8,546
Estimated world total <u>f/</u>	395,200	415,000	410,000	400,000	370,000	375,000
Total Northern Hemisphere (38 countries)	209,600	218,500	214,500	212,500	201,000	200,500
Total Southern Hemisphere (3 countries)	34,400	30,900	31,600	29,000	24,000	26,000
World total excluding Soviet Union and China <u>g/</u>	244,000	249,500	245,100	241,500	225,000	225,500

Compiled from official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.

a/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible.

b/ Preliminary.

c/ Excluding native cultivation.

d/ Average of less than 5 years.

e/ Totals include estimates, where data are missing for countries listed.

f/ Includes estimates for countries not listed.

g/ Total of 41 countries, representing about 95 percent of the world total, excluding the Soviet Union and China.

**WHEAT: Production in specified countries, year of harvest,
averages 1930-1939, annual 1940-1943 a/**

CONTINENT AND COUNTRY	AVERAGE		1940	1941	1942	1943 b/
	1930-1934:	1935-1939:				
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
North America:						
United States	732,527:	758,623:	813,305:	943,127:	974,176:	835,298
Canada	348,560:	312,399:	540,190:	314,825:	556,684:	293,560
Mexico	14,354:	14,282:	17,046:	15,957:	17,415:	15,784
Total, 3 countries	1,095,451:	1,085,304:	1,370,541:	1,273,909:	1,548,275:	1,145,742
Europe, estimated total	1,516,000:	1,631,000:	1,300,000:	1,425,000:	1,360,000:	1,540,000
Soviet Union	c/860,448:	-	-	-	-	-
Africa:						
Algeria	32,571:	35,201:	23,225:	47,445:	25,516:	29,660
French Morocco	29,509:	23,198:	25,819:	29,005:	26,088:	24,504
Egypt	43,128:	45,848:	49,994:	41,292:	46,357:	47,460
Tunisia	12,955:	14,965:	9,252:	15,800:	12,860:	7,423
Union of South Africa d/	12,301:	16,259:	15,600:	13,733:	20,381:	18,400
Total, 5 countries	130,465:	135,471:	123,890:	147,275:	131,202:	127,447
Asia:						
China	e/820,624:	715,536:	f/700,000:	f/720,000:	-	-
Manchuria	40,770:	35,200:	f/ 27,558:	f/ 29,027:	-	-
Japan	36,806:	50,133:	66,135:	53,805:	-	f/ 40,294
Chosen	9,048:	10,239:	10,222:	10,265:	-	-
India	355,593:	370,660:	401,968:	374,341:	374,715:	408,240
Palestine	2,538:	3,244:	5,000:	3,320:	3,836:	2,426
Syria and Lebanon	14,638:	19,485:	24,600:	16,534:	18,643:	21,432
Turkey	94,796:	135,690:	149,470:	128,013:	100,563:	146,973
Total, 8 countries g/	1,374,813:	1,340,187:	1,384,953:	1,335,305:	-	-
South America:						
Argentina	243,932:	221,769:	299,458:	238,349:	235,157:	249,855
Chile	27,355:	31,562:	28,786:	28,753:	31,465:	33,463
Uruguay	9,876:	13,256:	7,060:	13,668:	12,468:	8,745
Brazil	5,530:	4,657:	5,917:	9,112:	f/ 6,610:	-
Peru	3,112:	3,274:	3,739:	3,687:	3,707:	-
Total, 5 countries g/	289,805:	274,518:	344,960:	293,569:	289,407:	-
Oceania:						
Australia	185,773:	169,702:	82,233:	166,713:	155,727:	108,000
New Zealand	8,037:	7,129:	8,306:	8,671:	9,890:	7,627
Total, 2 countries	193,810:	176,831:	90,539:	175,384:	165,617:	115,627
Estimated world total h/	5,554,000:	5,920,000:	6,000,000:	5,700,000:	5,700,000:	5,700,000

Compiled from official sources and International Institute of Agriculture, except as noted.
a/ Harvests of the Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1943 is combined with the Southern Hemisphere harvest that began late in 1943 and ended early in 1944.

b/ Preliminary.

c/ Beginning with 1933, production estimates for the Soviet Union have been reduced 15 per cent to take account of heavy harvesting losses.

d/ Excluding native cultivation.

e/ Average of less than 5 years.

f/ Unofficial estimate.

g/ Totals include estimates, where data are missing for countries listed.

h/ Includes estimates for countries not listed.

The World wheat acreage in 1943 was estimated to be only slightly above that of 1942 and was considerably below average. High per-acre yields in important producing areas maintained production at the 1941 level despite the decline in area.

The acreage in North America was the smallest since 1934. The South American acreage, in contrast, showed a substantial gain over the preceding year, though it was still below average.

Judith Edwards

DANISH HOG NUMBERS REVERSE THEIR UPWARD TREND

Hog numbers in Denmark declined moderately from March to June this year after increasing sharply from the low point reached in June 1942. Since the spring of 1940, Denmark's livestock industry has been dependent to a large extent on the policy of the German occupying forces and on Denmark's own feed production. From June 1940, shortly after the occupation of Denmark, to June 1942, hog numbers in Denmark dropped sharply and at the low point were only about one-third as large as they were when the decline in numbers started. During that period the usual supplies of imported feed were no longer available, and this, together with small feed crops in 1941, accounted for much of this decrease. The German policy of requisitioning food products also may have accounted in part for the decrease.

From the low point reached in June 1942, hog numbers increased until the end of 1943, when they had more than doubled but were still about 24 percent below the level of early 1940. Favorable harvests in 1943 contributed much to making this increase possible. Numbers then dropped off slightly and after March of this year began a downward trend, which in June brought the total down to where it was only 3 percent above a year earlier and 38 percent below June 1940.

DENMARK: Estimates of hog numbers,
by months, 1943 and 1944

	ALL HOGS			BRED SOWS		
MONTH:	1943:	1944:	CHANGE:	1943:	1944:	CHANGE:
	1943:	1944:	COM- PARED:	1943:	1944:	COM- PARED:
	1943:	1944:	WITH	1943:	1944:	WITH
	1943:	1944:	1943	1943:	1944:	1943
	1,000: head	1,000: head	Per- cent	1,000: head	1,000: head	Per- cent
Jan. .:	1,605:	2,291:	+43:	124:	149:	+20
Feb. .:	1,721:	2,276:	+32:	122:	142:	+16
Mar. .:	1,874:	2,291:	+22:	131:	132:	+1
Apr. .:	-	-	-	-	-	-
May .:	1,866:	2,079:	+11:	143:	125:	-13
June .:	1,940:	1,999:	+03:	160:	127:	-21
July .:	2,011:	-	-	164:	-	-
Aug. .:	2,173:	-	-	161:	-	-
Sept. .:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oct. .:	2,396:	-	-	160:	-	-
Nov. .:	2,449:	-	-	160:	-	-
Dec. .:	-	-	-	-	-	-

Compiled from official sources.

The present decline in Danish hog numbers probably will continue as long as Germany is in a position to requisition food products in Denmark. One indication of a probable continuation in the decline is the downward trend in sow numbers, which has been under way since the beginning of the year. The total number of sows bred in June 1944 was 21 percent under that of June 1943 and June 1941.

The number of hogs of varying slaughter weights on hand this June totaled 1,393,000, or 6 percent more than a year earlier. Hogs weighing over 132 pounds had decreased, and those of lighter weights had increased. The number of suckling pigs was approximately the same as a year earlier.

DENMARK: Number of hogs in June 1944,
with comparisons

CLASSIFICATION	1940	1942	1943	1944
	1,000: head	1,000: head	1,000: head	1,000: head
Brood Sows				
Bred	196	-	160	127
Total	336	148	228	202
Slaughter Hogs				
Over 132 pounds:	629	194	468	427
77-132 pounds	635	257	417	483
Under 77 pounds:	840	283	425	483
Total	2,104	734	1,310	1,393
Suckling pigs ..	761	251	392	394
Total, includ- ing boars ...	3,218	1,141	1,940	1,999

Compiled from official sources.

The increase in hog slaughter has resulted in a 40-percent increase in pork production over the corresponding period last year, and in exports approximately twice as large. These exports, however, which are chiefly to Germany, are still only about 60 to 65 percent of the pre-war total.

If the war in Europe ends this year, Denmark will not be in a position to compete in a large way in the international bacon market. Before the war, it was the leading exporter of bacon, exporting annually an average of 416 million pounds, which went chiefly to the British market.

Esther H. Johnson

LATE COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

ARGENTINE GRAIN ACREAGE REDUCED

The area sown to small grains in Argentina for the harvest beginning in late 1944 is somewhat smaller than in 1943, and the wheat and barley acreages are considerably below average, according to the first official estimate. The acreages seeded to oats and rye, however, though smaller than last year, are still above average. The wheat area is placed at 15,935,000 acres, which is about 95 percent of the acreage sown for the past two crops and 87 percent of the 1938-1942 average. At that level, the acreage would be the smallest since 1935 and falls short of expectations, as earlier trade forecasts were for an increase of about 10 percent, compared with the 1943 area. Reports indicate that later estimates may show a slight increase in the wheat acreage due to late seedings. During the past 10 years final estimates have averaged higher than the first forecast.

The reduced acreage is attributed in large part to extended drought in certain areas, especially in the Provinces of Córdoba and Santa Fe, where the dry conditions have not been relieved, and conditions are reported to be subnormal. These Provinces usually produce about 60 percent of the country's total. Rains were received during August in the eastern part of the important producing Province of Buenos Aires and in northeastern Entre Ríos, and conditions there are reported to be improved.

ARGENTINA: Grain acreage, yield, and production, 1944-45 with comparisons

ITEM	: AVERAGE: : :			
	: 1938-39:	1942-43:	1943-44:	1944-45
	: To :	: :	: :	: :
	: 1942-43:	: :	: :	: :
: 1,000 : 1,000 : 1,000 : 1,000				
ACREAGE SOWN:	acres	acres	acres	acres
Wheat	18,332:	16,983:	16,830:	15,953
Oats	3,825:	4,782:	5,306:	5,011
Barley ...	1,944:	1,420:	1,774:	1,628
Rye	2,997:	4,367:	4,511:	3,944
YIELD PER	Bushels:	Bushels:	Bushels:	Bushels
SEEDED ACRE :	:	:	:	:
Wheat	14.0 :	13.8 :	14.8 :	-
Oats	11.3 :	8.4 :	12.0 :	-
Barley ...	12.2 :	11.0 :	18.6 :	-
Rye	3.3 :	1.4 :	5.7 :	-
: 1,000 : 1,000 : 1,000 : 1,000				
PRODUCTION	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
Wheat	256,558:	235,157:	249,855:	-
Oats	43,127:	39,958:	63,727:	-
Barley ...	23,787:	16,075:	33,023:	-
Rye	10,019:	5,941:	25,583:	-

From official sources.

WESTERN CANADA'S HARVEST DELAYED BY HEAVY RAINS

Heavy rains delayed harvesting in many areas of the Prairie Provinces during the first week of September. Combining and threshing were reported at a standstill over most of Manitoba, in southeastern and northern Saskatchewan, and, to a lesser extent, in central Alberta, where dry weather is needed. In the areas of heaviest rainfall some deterioration in quality is reported.

Sawfly damage was reported in south-central and west-central Saskatchewan, as well as some damage from severe frosts in the extreme northwestern parts of the Province.

In Manitoba 87 percent of the grain had been cut and yields of 20-25 bushels per acre are said to be general, with higher yields reported for northern sections. Harvesting of 57 percent of the wheat and 61 percent of the coarse grains had been completed in Saskatchewan with generally good yields reported.

Harvesting was resumed in Alberta early in the month, with 70 percent completed in the southern part. About 50 percent of cutting was completed in central and northern areas, and threshing was beginning in scattered areas. Prospects are for good to excellent yields in the central part of the Province. In extreme northern and southern areas, where the drought was serious, however, yields averaging only about 5 bushels are reported.

ARGENTINA HARVESTS RECORD RICE CROP

Argentina's 1944 rice crop was revised upward in its third official estimate to 8,559,000 bushels (250 million pounds of milled), compared with the corresponding estimate of 4,852,000 bushels (142 million pounds) for 1943. The harvested area was placed at 128,000 acres, an increase of 44,000 acres over that of 1943.

The increased acreage assigned to rice production, and weather that favored good yields were responsible for the pronounced increase. The indicated yield this year is 62 bushels per acre compared with 54 bushels a year ago. About 50 percent of the total crop was harvested in the Province of Corrientes and approximately one-fourth in Entre Ríos.

Argentine rice cultivation gradually increased from less than 1 million bushels in 1932 to almost 5 million in 1939, and production was maintained at about that same level until 1944, when it increased 76 percent over the 1943 crop. Imports have decreased in recent years from an average of 140 million pounds of milled rice 15 years ago to a negligible amount. Argentina has

been approximately self-sufficient in rice for 2 years, and the crop this year should more than satisfy domestic requirements, which have varied from 140 to 190 million pounds since 1939.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

ARGENTINE FLAXSEED ACREAGE SMALLEST SINCE 1922

According to the first official forecast, the area sown to flaxseed in Argentina is only 4,848,000 acres, compared with the corresponding estimate of 5,640,000 acres in 1943 and the final estimate for that year of 5,091,000 acres. This is the smallest area sown to flaxseed since 1922, when only 4,317,000 acres were reported. The decrease is probably due to drought, especially in the Provinces of Santa Fe, Entre Ríos and Córdoba. If rains occur promptly, some additional acreage may be sown.

ARGENTINA CHANGES REGULATIONS FOR EXPORT OF FLAXSEED

A decree of September 9, 1944, canceled the prohibition on exports of flaxseed unless purchased from the Regulating Board. In order to export flaxseed acquired direct from dealers or farmers, a compensation fee must be paid to the Board. This fee represents the difference between the basic price of 9.25 pesos per 100 kilograms (70 cents per bushel) and the export price currently established by the Board.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

EGYPT EXPECTED TO INCREASE COTTON ACREAGE

The Egyptian Government has issued a decree permitting an increase in the 1945-46 cotton acreage. Under the 1944-45 regulations, cotton acreage was limited to 22 percent of the cultivated land in the Northern Zone of the Delta and to 15 percent in all other sections of the country. The new law permits planting up to 27 percent of the cultivated area in the Northern Zone and up to 20 percent in all other areas.

The 1944-45 cotton area was 852,949 feddans (885,361 acres). If cotton growers plant the limit allowed by law, the 1945-46 acreage is expected to be around 900,000 feddans (934,200 acres).

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

FURTHER REPORT ON DAMAGE TO JAMAICAN BANANA AND COCONUT PLANTATIONS

About 90 percent of the banana plants and some 50 percent of the coconut trees were destroyed in the August 20 hurricane, which struck Jamaica's five northern and eastern Parishes where a majority of the plantations are located. This will have marked effect on banana exports. Coconut exports have been stopped to assure sufficient materials for domestic industries. Pimiento, lime trees, and vegetables also have suffered severe damage. Kingston vegetable prices not under Government control have risen sharply. Further increases are inevitable.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

DANISH CATTLE MARKETINGS FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION REDUCED

Marketings of Danish cattle for the domestic market during June were considerably less than those stipulated in the Government's meat-control regulations, and the larger supplies of hogs to make up the deficiency also were not delivered. The Meat Laws of 1943 decreed that weekly meat deliveries for domestic consumption should be at least 80 percent of those in the corresponding weeks of 1941. Deliveries of cattle during June, however, averaged only about 33 percent of the quota fixed, and deliveries of calves averaged only 75 percent. Pork deliveries only partly made up the deficiency.

CURRENT CONDITIONS IN URUGUAYAN CATTLE MARKETS

Cattle slaughter in Uruguay during July totaled 117,000 head, which was an all-time

record for that month. Slaughter earlier in the year was unusually small; consequently the total for the first 7 months, amounting to 543,000 head was 44 percent below the unusually large slaughter during the same period of 1943 and much below average.

Pastures during the first half of the year were in good condition, and in mid-winter (July) were still reported as fair. But even with several good years, it will take time to make up the cattle losses that occurred in 1942-43 because of drought.

Demand was active in July, and prices advanced as foreign packers and the National freezing company competed for supplies. Approximately 57 percent of the total slaughter so far this year was by exporting packers, whereas last year they slaughtered 70 percent of the total.

BRAZIL PLANS REQUISITIONING OF CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER

Problems connected with the requisitioning of approximately 131,000 head of cattle for the Federal District and the São Paulo markets in Brazil are being worked out by a committee recently appointed by the Minister of Agriculture of the State of São Paulo. The requisitioning of cattle for those markets was provided for in Resolutions 60 and 61, which were issued by the Coordinator of Economic Mobilization on July 31, 1944.

On August 17 the Committee was called to Rio de Janeiro for consultation with the Federal Coordinator. The Coordinator of Economic Mobilization now is studying plans to ration meat by allowing each person a specified amount per month, as has been done with sugar. The present form of rationing prohibits meat sales 3 days each week.

The current meat scarcity is attributed by some officials to the reduction in cattle numbers. A recent bulletin reports total cattle numbers in Brazil at 40.8 million head, but a Brazilian official believes this figure to be too high, questioning particularly the accuracy of the figures reported for Central Brazil. Estimates of total cattle numbers in 1942 range from 42 to 45 million head.

SEVERE OUTBREAK OF EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS IN PARTS OF COLOMBIA

A severe outbreak of equine encephalomyelitis, known locally as "peste loco," or crazy plague, is reported as occurring in the northeastern portion of Antioquia, Colombia. Approximately 800 mules are reported to have died from the disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes and other biting insects. A milder form, incorrectly known as "peste boba," which affects cattle and hogs, also is reported as occurring in the same area. Members of the Colombian Government's Veterinarian Commission are taking steps to prevent spread of the disease through the use of preventive serums.

ARGENTINA SUSPENDS EXPORT OF SKINS AND LEATHER

The export of sole leather and certain hides and skins from Argentina has been suspended by a regulation issued September

4. This regulation follows a decree dated August 10, and published August 31, requiring export permits for all hides, skins, leather, and their manufactures.

The current regulation will be in effect until a complete study by the National Council of rationing and supplies, weights, prices, et cetera, has been made. The principal types coming under this order, besides sole leather, are raw kidskins, tanned goat and kidskins, tanned calfskins, tanned or untanned splits, rough-tanned sheepskins and suedes.

Contracts already executed must be reported within 8 days, and the possibility of granting export licenses covering them wholly or in part will be considered by the Council. Licenses for other types of hides and skins, such as salted and dry hides, raw goatskins, wool sheepskins, pickled sheepskins, upper leather, et cetera, may be issued subject to available quantities and reasonable local market prices for domestic requirements.

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